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ACTION EUR-01

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-01	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SB-00	SNP-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DRL-09	G-00	/018W				

-----647698 041537Z /20

O 041529Z AUG 94
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8485
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ROME 012565

S/S-O PLEASE NOTIFY AF/C, G, AND EUR/WE ON RECEIPT

EMBASSY VATICAN/MESSAGE NO. 407/94

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PREL, RW, VT
SUBJECT: MGRW02: VATICAN AND RWANDA
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REFS: (A) STATE 207587 (B) BRYNN/LEADER TELCON 8/3
(C) ROME 7211

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. REF A RECEIVED AFTER VATICAN OFFICES CLOSED 8/4.
CONTACTS DESCRIBED IN PARAS 5-9 BASED ON REF B.



B1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 4 OCT 2015
DATE/CASE ID: 05 MAY 2011 201005065

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4. THE VATICAN HAS ALREADY TRIED TO PLAY AN INDIRECT DIPLOMATIC ROLE, INCLUDING CALLING US IN MAY 4, ALONG WITH THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS, TO ASK US TO WORK TOGETHER TO BRING THE SIDES BACK TO THE TABLE, WORK FOR A GOVERNMENT OF TRANSITION, AND FORM A UN OR OAU FORCE MANNED BY AFRICANS TO OPEN CORRIDORS FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION (REF C). AT THAT TIME, FM TAURAN SAID THE US IS "THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT CAN SPEAK TO EVERYONE" AND ENCOURAGED US TO TAKE THE LEAD IN ENCOURAGING NEGOTIATION AND FACILITATING HUMANITARIAN RELIEF.

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5. THE VATICAN IS TAKING SEVERAL APPROACHES TO THE CRISIS IN RWANDA, HOLY SEE DEP FM CELLI AND COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE SECRETARY MARTIN TOLD CHARGE AUG. 4. IN ADDITION TO THE ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN ZAIRE FROM INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC CHARITIES AND RELIEF AGENCIES, THE VATICAN IS NOW MOBILIZING INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS TO SEND MEMBERS, ON AN URGENT BASIS, TO PROVIDE HEALTH, EDUCATIONAL, AND PASTORAL SERVICES AMONG THE REFUGEES. THE CHURCH HAS NOT YET BEEN ACTIVE IN THE CAMPS, MSGR. MARTIN SAID. MSGR. CELLI STRESSED THAT RELIGIOUS ARE BEING INSTRUCTED TO URGE RECONCILIATION AND HEALING AMONG THE ETHNIC GROUPS, DISCOURAGE CONTINUING MILITARY ACTIVITY, AND ENCOURAGE REPATRIATION. THE RELIGIOUS ARE BEING RECRUITED FROM THOSE FAMILIAR WITH CENTRAL AFRICA AND CONVERSANT IN THE LOCAL LANGUAGES. A PARTICULAR PROBLEM IS THAT MANY RELIGIOUS WITH THOSE QUALIFICATIONS ARE BELGIAN OR FRENCH AND THUS NOT WELCOMED BY ALL RWANDANS.

6. THE CHURCH IN RWANDA IS DECIMATED, BOTH VATICAN OFFICIALS AGREED. THE KILLING OF THE ARCHBISHOP AND TWO BISHOPS, THE MURDER OF DOZENS OF PRIESTS, THE DESTRUCTION OF MANY CHURCHES, AND THE DEATHS OF UNCOUNTED PARISHIONERS HAS LEFT THE CHURCH

"DECAPITATED". THERE IS NO NUNCIO ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~
SOURCES OF INFORMATION, SO THE VATICAN HAS NO CLEAR IDEA
OF WHO-OR WHAT-IS LEFT.

7. THE VATICAN HAS NAMED AN "APOSTOLIC VISITOR", FR.
HOSER, TO GO TO RWANDA, SURVEY WHAT IS LEFT, AND SUGGEST
HOW THE CHURCH CAN START OPERATING AGAIN AND PLAY A PART
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IN RWANDA'S PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALING. THERE ARE
ONLY TWO BISHOPS ON THE GROUND, AND MSGR. MARTIN ADDED
THAT THERE ARE NO NATURAL LEADERS IN THE RWANDAN
CHURCH. HE SAID HE IS ENCOURAGING CARD. ETCHEGARAY, THE
POPE'S POINT MAN FOR CENTRAL AFRICA (HE VISITED RWANDA
LAST MONTH) TO GET AN OUTSIDER APPOINTED TO PROVIDE
DIRECTION IN THE REBUILDING.

8. FR. HOSER, WHO LIVED MANY YEARS IN RWANDA, IS NOW IN
BUJUMBURA BUT HAS PERMISSION FROM THE FRONT TO ENTER
RWANDA AUG. 5. BOTH CELLI AND MARTIN STRESSED THAT FR.
HOSER HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY
PERMISSIONS FROM THE NEW GOVERNMENT. CHURCH RELATIONS
WITH THE FRONT HAV
E BEEN PROBLEMATIC: IT HAS DETAINED
NUNS AND NOT BEEN HELPFUL IN GETTING CHURCH OFFICIALS
INTO TERRITORY IT OCCUPIES. MARTIN SAID THAT CARDINAL
ETCHEGARAY'S MEETINGS WITH FRONT OFFICIALS IN JULY WERE
CORDIAL BUT THE LEADERSHIP OFTEN INFLEXIBLE. THE
CARDINAL FOUND SOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH UGANDA THAN
RWANDA. THE CHURCH'S CALLS FOR RECONCILIATION ARE NOT
WELCOMED BY FRONT OFFICIALS MORE INTERESTED IN BRINGING

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PEOPLE TO SUMMARY JUSTICE, MARTIN OBSERVED.

9. THE CHURCH IS NEARLY AS POLARIZED AS THE RWANDAN PEOPLE, BOTH CELLI AND MARTIN SAID, AND THE CLERGY DOES INCLUDE SOME WHO BRIDGE THE ETHIC GULF, SUCH AS TUTSI PRIESTS PROTECTED BY HUTUPARISHIONERS. UNFORTUNATELY, OTHERS ARE MORE INTERESTED IN REVENGE THAN IN RECONCILIATION. BOTH MEN STRESSED THAT THE VATICAN'S PRIORITIES WITHIN THE BORDERS IS TO REBUILD THE CHURCH SO IT CA PROMOTE PEACE AND RESUME ITS ROLE AS A PROVIDER OF PRIMARY SOCIAL SERVICES IN MANY PARTS OF THE

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COUNTRY.

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10. BUJUMBURA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. LEADER

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